

The West African Citizen Security Initiative:



A Shared Partnership

Trafficking and Organized Crime – A Direct Threat to Citizen Safety

The United States is committed to partnering with West African nations to enhance citizen security. The region is facing a significant threat, as seen most prominently by the dramatic increase in drug trafficking. Transnational organized crime networks are operating in West Africa, and as vast quantities of narcotics from Latin America transit West Africa en route to Europe and beyond, the global scourge becomes a local danger. Illicit markets and those who profit from them weaken public institutions, foster corruption, and foment violence. By eroding security, stability, and good governance, transnational organized crime directly hurts West Africans.

WACSI: An Integrated, Collaborative Regional Security and Rule of Law Program

Criminal networks are multidisciplinary and transnational, which is why WACSI draws on expertise from across the U.S. Government and will be implemented with our international partners. The United States is dedicated to an action plan to fight illicit drug trafficking around the world – including in

The Seven Goals of WACSI in West Africa:

1. Develop legal frameworks and enhance legal tools of West African nations;
2. Strengthen the links between interdiction and investigation to expose and pursue criminal networks;
3. Build investigative, prosecutorial, and adjudication capacity for fighting complex crime;
4. Enhance legitimate revenue generation for governments in the region;
5. Enhance government accountability to rule of law and the public;
6. Build government networks across borders to fight criminal networks; and
7. Foster drug demand reduction in local populations.

West Africa. WACSI represents the significant commitment on the part of the U.S. Government to taking action to counter transnational crime in West Africa.

U.S. Assistance – Meeting the Threat – Building Capacity

The Department of State has identified approximately \$35 million in U.S. assistance that will be brought under the banner of this initiative and it is anticipated that additional U.S. Government resources will be selected to support this program as it further develops. WACSI seeks to support the following programming in West Africa:

- Training and technical assistance for law enforcement and security forces to confront illicit trafficking, organized crime, corruption, border security issues, as well as to disrupt criminal infrastructure, such as money laundering and trafficking routes and networks;
- Partnering with legislators and justice sector institutions to increase government accountability and strengthen transnational crime legislation in areas such as anti-crime and asset forfeiture; and
- Assistance and resources for community policing, demand reduction, and other counternarcotics programs.